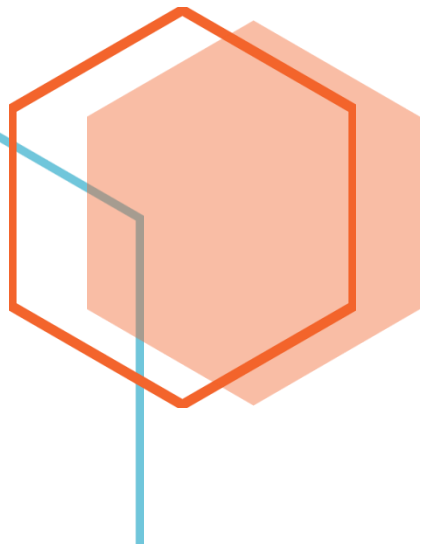




[Leonardo Da Vinci]

[Italy]

"Experience is a truer guide than the words of others"





Person's background

Born out of wedlock to respected Florentine notary Ser Piero and a young peasant woman named Caterina, Leonardo da Vinci was raised by his father and his stepmother. At the age of five, he moved to his father's family estate in nearby Vinci, the Tuscan town from which the surname associated with Leonardo derives, and lived with his uncle and grandparents.

Young Leonardo received little formal education beyond basic reading, writing and mathematics instruction, but his artistic talents were evident from an early age. Around the age of 14, da Vinci began a lengthy apprenticeship with the noted artist Andrea del Verrocchio in Florence. He learned a wide breadth of technical skills including metalworking, leather arts, carpentry, drawing, painting and sculpting. His earliest known dated work — a pen-and-ink drawing of a landscape in the Arno valley — was sketched in 1473.

At the age of 20, da Vinci qualified for membership as a master artist in Florence's Guild of Saint Luke and established his own workshop. However, he continued to collaborate with his teacher for an additional five years. It is thought that del Verrocchio completed his "Baptism of Christ" around 1475 with the help of his student, who painted part of the background and the young angel holding the robe of Jesus. According to Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architects, written around 1550 by artist Giorgio Vasari, Verrocchio was so humbled by the superior talent of his pupil that he never picked up a paintbrush again. Most scholars, however, dismiss Vasari's account as apocryphal.

As from 1477, Leonardo started working for himself in Florence as a painter. Already during this time, he sketched pumps, military weapons and other machines

Brief Introduction

Leonardo da Vinci (April 15, 1452 to May 2, 1519) was a painter, sculptor, architect, inventor, military engineer and draughtsman — the epitome of a "Renaissance man." With a curious mind and keen intellect, da Vinci studied the laws of science and nature, which greatly informed his work. His ideas and body of work have influenced countless artists and made da Vinci a leading light of the Italian Renaissance

First steps in entrepreneurship and faced difficulties

In 1478, after leaving Verrocchio's studio, da Vinci received his first independent commission for an altarpiece to reside in a chapel inside Florence's Palazzo Vecchio. Three years later the Augustinian monks of Florence's San Donato a Scopeto tasked him to paint "Adoration of the Magi." The young artist, however, would leave the city and abandon both commissions without ever completing them.

In 1482, Florentine ruler Lorenzo de' Medici commissioned da Vinci to create a silver lyre and bring it as a peace gesture to Ludovico Sforza. After doing so, da Vinci lobbied Ludovico for a job and sent the future Duke of Milan a letter that barely mentioned his considerable talents as an artist and instead touted his more marketable skills as a military engineer. Using his inventive mind, da Vinci sketched war machines such as a war chariot with scythe blades mounted on the sides, an armoured tank propelled by two men cranking a shaft and even an enormous crossbow that required a small army of men to operate. The letter worked, and Ludovico brought da Vinci to Milan for a tenure that would last 17 years. During his time in Milan, Leonardo was commissioned to work on numerous artistic projects as well, including "The Last Supper".

Da Vinci encountered obstacles and struggled professionally through his 20's and 30's; many of his works were never completed or failed on technical grounds, which can seem ironic for such a brilliant inventor. Not only did many of his works never come to life but he used to scribble his thoughts on scattered sheets of paper, often never having one single sheet of paper for an invention. "Life is pretty simple: You do some stuff. Most fails. Some works." said Da Vinci.

How and why the person has succeeded, lessons learnt

Even through the streaks of procrastination that he battled, he managed to make world-renowned breakthroughs in the crafts of painting, engineering, anatomy, biology, architecture, and more.





It was his observation of his habits (such as procrastination) and the changing of those habits over time that allowed him to forge himself into the high achiever that he was.

Da Vinci operated with the mindset of going out and doing the things you want to do, creating the things you want to create, and seeing the things you want to see. Da Vinci was also known for his incredible curiosity about the world. He is also quoted as saying "*Learning never exhausts the mind*" - To him, this meant that the world was a constant puzzle to be solved. The important thing to note about how da Vinci used this to his advantage is he focused on learning the things that he really cared about.

If you've ever attempted to learn or study something you don't really care about, you should know how difficult it is to keep going.

Lessons learned:

Leonardo Da Vinci is considered one of the greatest geniuses of art history due to his interest and influence in painting, sculpting, architecture, science, music, engineering, music, mathematics and more. He was an inventor of things that did not come to life until 400 and 500 years later. He was the first person to explain why the sky is blue, as well as the first to design an armoured car, a pile driver, a revolving crane, a pulley, a lagoon dredge, and a flying ship –in the 15th century!

Present situation and tips for success

Leonardo da Vinci died on May 2, 1519, at the age of 67. He continued to work on his scientific studies until his death; his assistant, Melzi, became the principal heir and executor of his estate. The "Mona Lisa" was bequeathed to Salai.

For centuries after his death, thousands of pages from his private journals with notes, drawings, observations and scientific theories have surfaced and provided a fuller measure of a true "Renaissance man."

Some tips for success:

“I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death.”

This kind of focused curiosity is another trait of high achievers. Be curious about the things you love. Learn and apply them as deeply as you can.

Conclusion

Without Leonardo Da Vinci, the modern world would be much different. Through his extensive research and studies, Leonardo has provided modern day with new medical theories. Leonardo's well written and drawn notes and journals are still being analysed and applied to modern medicine, while his beautiful paintings provide an insight into the culture of the Renaissance time period.

Leonardo Da Vinci was a great painter and inventor that inspired a lot of people to invent things that today may be important to us, he was one of the greatest painters and inventors in the history of humanity. In all, Leonardo Da Vinci has proven himself, time and again, that he is a genius.

